



## The Exemplar

February 2022

Dear Friend,

I first learned the Flemish word *ervaringsdeskundige* when former Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Exemplars Senior Advisory Board member Dr. Peter Piot introduced me to it. It means “lived experience.” Though I am still working on how to pronounce it, the concept of *ervaringsdeskundige* is one that’s familiar to our extended Exemplars family.


That’s because learning from lived experience and applying those lessons elsewhere is very much at the core of what we do. And if there’s ever been a time in which our *ervaringsdeskundige* has turned successes into actionable lessons, it’s the last few years.

*Ervaringsdeskundige* can be found in the examples shared by Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean of the School of Public Health, Makerere University, who co-leads the research on Exemplars in COVID-19 Response, and Dr. Donald Kaberuka, Chair of the Board of the Global Fund, who sits on the Exemplars in Global Health Senior Advisory Board. They recently showed how Uganda, DRC, Senegal, and Nigeria – despite having far less access to resources than their neighbors in the north – saw [replicable wins in their fight against COVID-19](#).

It’s in the stories out of [Maharashtra](#) and [Odisha](#), India, where Mass Drug Administration has significantly reduced the incidence of lymphatic filariasis, eliminating it by half in endemic districts.

It’s also in the ‘anecdota’ that Dr. Walter Orenstein, former director of the United States’ National Immunization Program and Professor of Infectious Diseases at Emory University, says can be used to [bolster the scientific case for vaccines](#). We might have a hard time saying the word *ervaringsdeskundige* – but the truth is, it’s everywhere. Let’s continue to study it with the goal of understanding it and passing it forward in the form of scalable lessons, or, as Dr. Piot might say, *schaalbare lessen*.

Best,  
Niranjan Bose

 **Gates Ventures**  
Niranjan Bose, PhD  
Managing Director, Health and Life Sciences

What lessons from *ervaringsdeskundige* have you learned during COVID-19?

[TELL US HERE!](#)

### FEATURED STORIES & ANALYSIS



#### Stunting: How did one Country Reduce it by 55 Percent in Eight Years?

From 2008 to 2016, the number of stunted children in Peru declined from almost 2,000,000 to 370,000. See how Peru’s government and civil society worked together in a deliberate, multi-sectoral manner, to deliver successful interventions across the nation.



#### DTP3: How did one Country Increase Vaccine Coverage by 91 Percent Between 2000 and 2017?

By prioritizing community access as a common goal, systemizing a bottom-up approach to evidence-based decision making, investing in human resources and health systems infrastructure, and ensuring vertical funding mechanisms, Zambia achieved 88 percent DTP3 immunization coverage.

#### WHO Rallies Africa's Tech Leaders to Innovate to Defeat COVID

Dr. Moredreck Chibi talks about the WHO-Africa’s first hackathon to build tools to help the continent fight COVID.

#### Lesson From COVID: Address the Social Determinants of Health

Experts say the pandemic sharply illustrates how addressing things like economic inequality, access to quality education and health care, and living conditions can help us prepare for future pandemics and meet global health goals.

#### #CountCHWs: Campaign Launched to Establish National Health Worker Registries

Most countries don’t know how many community health workers they have, how to contact the ones they do, or even where those workers are located. Now, more than 100 health organizations, health ministries, and funders are calling for that to change.

### EVENTS

#### International Women's Day (#InternationalWomensDay, #IWD2022) March 8, 2022

“Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow” is the theme for this year’s global event recognizing the contribution of women and girls around the world who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all.

#### World Tuberculosis Day 2022 (#WorldTBDay2022, #InvestToEndTB) March 24, 2022

Marking the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, this is a day to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social, and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.

Follow us on Twitter [@ExemplarsHealth](#) for additional updates, resources, and research, and join the conversation with [#Exemplars](#)

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### ABOUT

#### Become an Exemplar

Join a passionate and dedicated community of global health leaders working on the biggest challenges of our times. Take advantage of critical learning from countries around the world as you tackle similar problems at home. And, add your knowledge and voice to a robust and growing set of resources designed to ensure the positive and most equitable global health outcomes.

